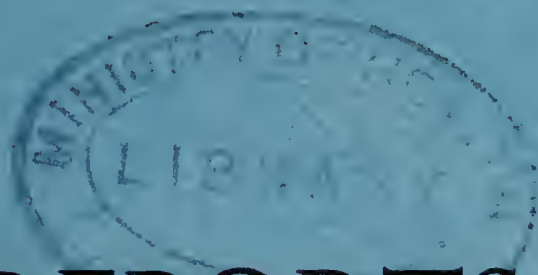


LITTLEMORE HOSPITAL

Littlemore, Oxon.



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LITTLEMORE HOSPITAL, LITTLEMORE, OXON.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.

Chairman

J. H. MORRELL, ESQ., M.A.
The Rise, Headington Hill, Oxford.

Vice-Chairman

DR. F. N. WHITE, M.D., M.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
The Park Cottage, Aston Rowant, Oxon.

MRS. P. M. STEVENSON, 10 Chadlington Road, Oxford.

MR. G. A. PAUL, University College, Oxford.

MISS R. SPOONER, 9 Polstead Road, Oxford.

MR. R. E. WARRELL, 159 Morrell Avenue, Oxford.

MR. O. J. BARLEY, Highfield, 5 Oxford Road, Thame, Oxon.

MRS. M. A. JOHNSON, 99 West Street, Grimsbury, Banbury, Oxon.

DR. H. C. JENNINGS, M.A., B.Sc., B.A., M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
D.P.H., 431 Banbury Road, Oxford.

DR. J. F. WARIN, M.D., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., Greyfriars, Paradise Street,
Oxford.

MR. L. BELLINGER, 48 Blackfriars Road, Oxford.

MISS O. ALLAWAY, 16 King Edward Street, Oxford.

MR. D. OLIVER, 73 George Street, Oxford.

MR. R. C. SURMAN, Oakley Road, Chinnor, Oxon.

MR. R. H. SMITH, 37 Ridgefield Road, Oxford.

OFFICERS.

- *ROBERT WILLIAM ARMSTRONG, M.A.(Oxon), B.Sc., M.D., B.Ch.(Belf.), D.P.M., *Physician-Superintendent*.
- *FRANCIS MELVILLE STEWART, M.B., Ch.B. (Edin.), *Deputy Physician-Superintendent*.
- *JOHN ELWES DUFFIELD, D.M., B.Ch. (Oxon), D.P.M., *Senior Assistant Physician*.
- *OLIVER LYTH, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., *Junior Assistant Physician*.
- MERCY IRENE HEATLEY, B.M., B.Ch.(OXON), *House-Physician*.
- THE REV. PHILIP G. LATHAM, M.A., *Chaplain*.
- THE REV. FATHER T. MCKENNA, S.D.B., *Roman Catholic Chaplain*.
- THE REV. S. C. CROWE, *Non-Conformist Chaplain*.
- *WYNDHAM S. T. RALLS, F.H.A., *Secretary of Hospital Management Committee, Finance and Supplies Officer*.
- *WILFRED BULLIVANT, *Engineer and Clerk of Works*.
- *MISS B. McNICOL, *Matron*.
- *JOHN HENRY REYNOLDS, *Chief Male Nurse*.

CONSULTING MEDICAL STAFF.

- DOUGLAS ALLAN ABERNETHY, M.A., B.M.(OXON), F.R.C.S.E., *Consulting Surgeon*.
- ELIZABETH M. HANDFIELD-JONES, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.A., *Visiting Anaesthetist*.
- C. ANNAND-SMITH, L.D.S., *Visiting Dentist*.

GERRARD WILKINSON, M.P.S., *Pharmacist*.

WILLIAM MACDOUGALL, M.P.B.L.A.A., F.I.M.L.T., *Laboratory Technician*.

*The officers thus marked are resident.

The REPORT of the MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE of LITTLE-MORE HOSPITAL (No. 12 of the Oxford Regional Hospital Board) for the nine months to 31st March, 1949.

The Management Committee of Littlemore Hospital was constituted by the Oxford Regional Hospital Board and took over their duties on 5th July, 1948. Mr. J. H. Morrell was appointed Chairman and Miss G. M. Ashhurst Vice-Chairman. The Chairman called an inaugural meeting in June, at which the Secretary and Treasurer of the Regional Hospital Board were present, to appoint the officers to the Hospital and settle some financial details.

Dr. R. W. Armstrong was appointed Medical Superintendent and Mr. W. S. T. Ralls Secretary to the Management Committee.

It was decided to set up only two Sub-Committees: (1) The Finance and General Purposes Sub-Committee, (2) Management Committee representatives to the Joint Advisory Council.

It is with regret that the death of Miss G. M. Ashhurst, Vice-Chairman of the Management Committee is recorded. Miss Ashhurst also served on the Visiting Committee of the Hospital for many years prior to its being taken over by the Ministry of Health. The vacancy caused by the death of Miss Ashhurst was filled by Dr. F. Norman White.

HOSPITAL BUILDINGS.

The Hospital buildings are in as reasonable a state of repair as the present shortage of materials and labour will allow.

The following improvements were completed during the period.

Addition of a bathroom at Gate Porter's Lodge.

Conversion of Military Hutting into Lecture and Demonstration Room.

Additional Hut taken over for Occupational Therapy.

Formation of flower beds in A.6 Ward Airing Court.

New Floor laid and re-arrangement of machinery in Kitchen to improve service.

Purchase of Electric Trolley for conveyance of meals.

Purchase of Scrubbing Machine for use in Kitchen.

Installation of new and larger Refrigerator in Kitchen.

Purchase of Anaesthetic Machine.

In addition to the above, repairs to the structure and to the engineering plant were carried out as necessary.

Works in progress at the present time include:

Conversion of Meat Stores into Cold Room.

New works approved but not yet started include:

10 Houses for Married Staff.

Domestic Staff Quarters.

Office Accommodation.

New Railway Siding and Turntable.

FARM AND GARDEN.

The shortage of labour on the garden staff has made many difficulties but the tractor is helping considerably. The potato crop last season was so very bad that the decision was taken to allow the ground to rest for at least one season.

WATER SUPPLY.

The Corporation of Oxford have for many years supplied the Hospital with 50,000 gallons of water per day free of charge. This was on account of the fear of pollution of the Hospital's own supply from the sewerage farm. The suggestion was made that since the Hospital had been taken over by the Ministry of Health, thereby creating a change of ownership, the practice of permitting this free allowance should cease. Investigation revealed however that the legal position remained the same and the Hospital should still be entitled to the free supply. The Ministry of Health, whilst agreeing the legal position, gave instructions to the Regional Hospital Board that negotiations should be opened with the City Council with a view to obtaining water on the most favourable terms.

COST OF MAINTENANCE.

An actual comparison is not possible at the moment because of financial changes.

STAFF MATTERS.

The following resigned during the period:

Dr. G. D. Ryder Smith, Medical Officer.

Mr. W. Whiteley, Deputy Engineer and Clerk of Works.

The following were appointed to the staff of the Hospital:

Dr. I. M. Heatley, House Physician.

Rev. S. C. Crowe, Free Church Chaplain.

Miss T. G. Yeomans, Deputy Kitchen Superintendent.

Mr. L. Arrandale, Deputy Engineer.

The shortage of accommodation for staff necessitated billets being found for cookery pupils.

Staff shortage in general remains acute; a number of female part-time nurses have been engaged. The shortage of cooks in the main kitchen is most serious.

There have been various increases in the Wages and Salary Scales in accordance with national awards.

The Joint Advisory Council of representatives of the Management Committee and the Staff have considered matters referred to it and made recommendations. A Hospital Staff Committee has been set up under the Chairmanship of the Medical Superintendent and is functioning satisfactorily.

FINANCE.

The Ministry of Health Auditors have visited the Hospital on two occasions to examine the accounts. Arising therefrom an instruction was received from the Ministry of Health that the payment of pensions, which this Committee had been doing on an agency basis for the Local Authorities, must cease.

GENERAL.

The Committee desire to express thanks to Dr. R. W. Armstrong, Medical Superintendent, and Mr. W. S. T. Ralls, Secretary, for the efficient way the transfer of the Hospital to the Minister of Health was effected and to all members of the staff for their co-operation and industry during a year attended with many difficulties.

J. H. MORRELL,
Chairman.

PHYSICIAN SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit the 103rd Annual Report of the Physician-Superintendent for the year ended December 1948.

The number of patients under treatment in the Hospital during the past year was 1197 and the average number daily resident 887, as shown in the following figures:—

	M.	F.	T.
On the Hospital Registers 1st January, 1948 ...	370	460	830
Total under care during 1948	538	659	1197
On the Hospital Registers, 1st January, 1949 ...	414	508	922
Average number daily resident	405	482	887

Admissions. The total admissions during the year numbered 367, comprising 168 men and 199 women; of these 315 were direct admissions, 38 were transferred from other Mental Hospitals and 14 were regraded by alteration of status. Of the 168 male admissions, 71 were certified, 92 were voluntary and 5 temporary. Of the 199 female admissions, 80 were certified, 113 voluntary and 6 temporary.

Discharges. The discharges for the year numbered 223, 86 being recovered, 104 relieved and 26 not improved. In addition 14 patients were regraded during the year. The figures are analysed in the following table:—

Cases discharged or transferred:—

	M.	F.	T.
Recovered	35	51	86
Relieved	50	54	104
Not improved	12	14	26
Regraded	7	7	14

Deaths. The total deaths during the year numbered 38 (20 males and 18 females), giving a death rate of 4.3 per cent on the daily average number resident.

Visits. The Commissioners of the Board of Control visited the hospital on November 17th and left a report which is appended.

Mental Treatment Act. The total number of patients admitted under the Mental Treatment Act was 205 out of a total of 315 direct admissions. This represents approximately 65 per cent and is a distinct improvement on any of the preceeding years since the introduction of the Mental Treatment Act.

Out-Patient Clinics. The work of your medical staff at the out-patient clinics for mental illness at the Radcliffe Infirmary and at the Horton Hospital, Banbury, has continued throughout the year and

since the advent of the National Health Act there has been a considerable increase in the number of referrals to these clinics by the practitioners of the region. The time is coming when we shall have to consider seriously the provision of additional out-patient clinic facilities owing to lack of accommodation at the Radcliffe Infirmary and I have in mind the possibility of starting an additional clinic at this hospital for the supervision and follow-up of discharged patients. Domiciliary visits have also been made by your medical staff at the request of medical practitioners in the Region, but the number of these has been rather less than I had anticipated and I am doubtful whether our colleagues in practice have fully realized the possibilities of obtaining psychiatric advice for their patients by this means.

Treatment. The year under review has been a particularly active one from the point of view of medical treatments. In addition to large numbers of out-patients and in-patients treated by electro-convulsant therapy, it has been possible, in spite of shortage of staff, to maintain the Insulin Clinic without interruption so that both male and female patients have been treated when necessary by this technique. Over thirty patients have had the operation of pre-frontal leucotomy performed by Mr. Abernethy, our Consulting Surgeon, with very gratifying results in a few patients, and some improvement in the majority of cases. I am pleased to say that we have had no fatalities with this operation. A further method of psycho-surgery in which a portion of the brain is removed by open operation has recently been undertaken by Professor Sir Hugh Cairns on our patients, but it is too early to assess the results as yet. It is visualised, however, that for the time being this hospital will be used as a centre for this research and that patients from other hospitals in the Region will be moved here for convenience of investigation and treatment.

Laboratory. The following examinations were carried out in the Laboratory during the year 1948:—

Blood Examinations.

Kahn Tests	...	...	...	...	...	264
Complete blood counts	...	...	...	...	...	297
Simple counts	...	...	...	...	...	117
Erythrocyte sedimentation rate	...	...	...	...	...	310
Sugar tolerance tests	...	...	...	...	...	11
Sugar estimations	...	...	...	...	...	178
Urea	...	...	...	...	...	15
Bromide	...	...	...	...	...	4
Widal	...	...	...	...	...	44
Fouchet	...	...	...	...	...	1
Van den Bergh	...	...	...	...	...	1
C.S.F. examinations...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Urine examinations	...	...	...	...	...	938

Examination for B. tuberculosis.

Sputum	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Stools	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Pus . ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

General Bacteriological examinations.

Stools	...	...	...	...	...	...	135
Throat swabs	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Ear swabs	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Vaginal swabs	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Urine ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
Pus ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Sputum	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Blood	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Post Mortem examinations...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Post Mortem Material (Histological)	...	...	...	...	...	...	105
Vomited matter	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Skin scrapings for fungi or parasites	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Test meals	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Stools (chemical)	...	...	...	...	...	...	7

Occupational Therapy. This comparatively new department of the hospital continues to flourish and increasing use is being made of its resources, the addition of a male assistant during the year has made it possible to extend the department by adding another hut for wood-work, brush-making, etc., and has increased the possibilities of employing male patients. I am still not satisfied that sufficient occupational therapy is being given in the wards of the hospital and I am sure that it will be necessary to add another assistant for this purpose in the near future.

Lectures and Classes. These have been held throughout the year for clinical students of the Oxford Medical School, students from the Dorset House School of Occupational Therapy, Health Visitors, and student nurses. With the ending of the Royal Medico-Psychological examinations, student nurses are now prepared for the State examinations and a number have already been successful in the preliminary tests.

Additions and Improvements. One of the ex-military huts has been converted into a lecture and demonstration room for student nurses. The Gate-porter's Lodge has been altered to provide a bathroom. The General Kitchen has been extended to provide a new servery, and a fresh lay-out of kitchen equipment has been adopted for greater convenience. The kitchen floor has been re-paved with terrazzo.

There are a large number of very necessary alterations and improvements which have been considered and approved by the Management Committee but are held up at present owing to financial stringency.

Staff. With the coming into force of the National Health Act the hospital ceased to be administered by the joint Committee of the County and City of Oxford and consequently Mr. F. G. Scott resigned the position of Clerk to the Committee of Visitors which he had so admirably filled for 16½ years. I should like to take this opportunity of paying tribute to the great help and co-operation which I always received from him and from the Deputy Clerk, Mr. East, during the period which I was associated with them.

Among the medical staff of the hospital, Dr. G. Ryder-Smith left us to take up private practice at the end of October 1948 and was replaced by Dr. M. I. Heatley who has been House-Physician for the past eight months.

One male nurse, Mr. T. Dixon, retired on superannuation during the year and I have to record with regret, the death of Dr. K. O. Newman, who was a former pathologist to the hospital.

The recruitment of student nurses of both sexes continues to be a matter of great concern to me, for the numbers coming forward are still most inadequate in spite of all efforts and much expense in advertising. Supervision of patients has been improved by enlisting the help of a large number of part-time female staff but this is an unsatisfactory expedient in the long run for it must inevitably lead to the situation in a few years time when the number of trained female nurses will be grossly inadequate. On the male side, there is abundant trained staff, but again the recruitment of student male nurses is most disappointing.

General. The change over to the new Health Service has been accomplished remarkably smoothly and I should like to express my appreciation of the senior officers of the Regional Hospital Board—Dr. Williams and his Deputy, Dr. Fowler, Mr. Watts and Mr. Herbert, who have been so helpful, understanding and tactful in all their dealings with us. There is no doubt that a great deal of extra clerical work has resulted from this hospital being taken over by the Board, and an increasing amount of administrative responsibility is being thrown upon Mr. Ralls as Secretary to the Management Committee. In consequence of this, I have personally been much more free during the last half year to engage in purely clinical work and I gather that this is, in fact, the policy of the Ministry of Health.

I should like to express my thanks to my medical colleagues for their good work done during the year and to all the other officials of the hospital who are invariably so helpful and so loyal to me. My special thanks are due to Mr. Ralls who, as I have already mentioned, takes so much of the administrative burden from my shoulders. I also wish to thank all the members of the hospital staff, both full-time and part-time.

To the members of the old Visiting Committee I offer my grateful thanks and am glad to welcome so many of them back as members of the new Hospital Management Committee. I must once again acknowledge my great indebtedness to the Chairman, Mr. James Morrell, for his unfailing help and support.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. W. ARMSTRONG.

CHAPLAIN'S REPORT.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have now been Chaplain for four years and from my point of view everything is most satisfactory.

The attendances at the Services in Chapel are excellent—between 300 and 330 in the morning and about 270 in the afternoon. The drop in the afternoon is due to patients having visitors.

The number of Communicants amongst the patients has kept up to between fifty and sixty. The highest was fifty-nine, the lowest fifty-one.

During the year a new curtain behind the Altar and side-curtains have been provided. New hangings for the pulpit and reading-desk appeared at Easter.

We have plenty of copies of the Book of Common Prayer, but I get continual requests for hymn books. Another four dozen of *Hymns Ancient and Modern* would enable me to satisfy the patients and have a few in stock, if I may have your permission to order them. Many patients seem to appreciate what I do in Chapel in the way of sermons, and in the wards. In fact, I get more expressions of appreciation in the Hospital than I have ever had in any parish in which I have worked.

The Chapel is kept in excellent order. All my needs are supplied and often even anticipated.

Besides the Sunday Services and such visiting as I can manage to do, I visit the wards once a week and more often when my time permits.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

PHILIP G. LATHAM,

Chaplain.

R.C. CHAPLAIN'S REPORT.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

It is with pleasure that I submit the annual report of the Roman Catholic Chaplain for the year ended 1948.

During the past year those under my spiritual care averaged 100 in number. They included 54 members of the Medical and Nursing Staff and 46 patients. I am happy to state that with a few exceptions all gave satisfaction and no little edification.

In addition to the usual Sunday morning service, another is now conducted. This enables all the Staff to be present at one or other of the services. Holy Mass was celebrated on the eight principle Feast Days of the year, and also on St. Patrick's Day, a concession greatly appreciated by the large number of Irish nurses and maids in residence. A monthly afternoon service for patients is also being conducted.

Throughout the year, I visited the Hospital and interviewed the staff, maids and patients regularly. I administered the Sacraments to staff and patients whenever I have been asked to do so. On all occasions I have been received with kindness and courtesy. I am grateful for the assistance given me.

Of the three Roman Catholic patients who died, two were buried by me in the Hospital cemetery. The other was removed for private burial.

I wish to thank the Medical Superintendent, the Secretary to the Management Committee, and the Nursing Staff for their co-operation and never failing courtesy.

Believe me,

Your obedient servant,

T. J. McKENNA,

R.C. Chaplain.

LITTLEMORE MENTAL HOSPITAL.

17th November, 1948.

An unusually long time has elapsed (nearly 22 months) since this Hospital was last visited by my Board and in consequence during my visit, which began yesterday, there has been much to see and much of it of a most encouraging nature. The re-opening of the remaining wards which had been part of the Military Hospital and the organization of an excellent Occupation Therapy department are particularly noteworthy events. The Army left behind various huts some of which have been adapted for use as occupation centres and a staff canteen. A number of wards have been redecorated throughout and the furnishing improved by the acquisition of a number of comfortable armchairs. Many of the departments have been fitted with fluorescent lighting. A patients' shop has been opened, but so far has not been the success expected owing to the competition of local shops patronized by the shopping parties.

The occupation department is in the charge of a trained therapist who has two assistants of whom one is a trained carpenter. Some students in their second year of occupation therapy training also assist for three monthly periods. The Army hut to be used for carpentry is not ready yet, but about sixty patients of both sexes attend classes in the hut which is in use and in addition sixty-two other patients attend classes in the wards. I was glad to see the excellent progress which has been made.

During my visit to the wards and departments, I believe, I have seen all the patients in residence and I gave seven special interviews. On the whole the patients were quiet and well behaved and I am sure much is done to make them contented. The wards however do present a very crowded appearance. The ward book shelves are not well supplied with books and I have discussed with Dr. Armstrong the need for a central library and reading room where patients could select their own books.

Mattresses are not remade with that frequency which is desirable and I learn that there is no mattress making shop at this hospital and that mattresses have to be sent out when remaking is essential. The firm doing this work is not always able to accept further orders immediately. I was glad to hear that the ward garden of B.2 was shortly to be relaid and that improvements are under consideration to relieve the bleakness of the airing court used by patients in A.6 and 7. At this hospital patients are put to bed unusually early, except on cinema and dance nights. It is a tradition which is hard to break and staff and patients regard 6 p.m. only too frequently as patients bed-time. Dr. Armstrong agrees with me in thinking that the better type of patient

should be encouraged to sit up at any rate until 9 p.m. I wonder if the introduction of fluorescent lighting into certain of the dayrooms which are at present inadequately lit at night would help. Group recreations in the evening would also be an incentive.

The standard of patients' clothing should not be allowed to fall any further. I know the difficulties which are general today in all mental hospitals. I was glad to find that the laundry does press all male suits which have had to be washed. Every patient who goes out of doors for work or exercise should have a change of footwear. The laundry is much in need of modernization. Two of the wringers in the main and one in the foul laundry are without adequate safety devices.

Dinner yesterday consisted of baked fish and potatoes and a treacle pudding. It was a satisfying meal. A second course is served every day for dinner and a second vegetable every day except two. Patients have a cup of cocoa before going to bed.

The kitchen is having the stone floor removed and a new composition floor laid. I noticed that the mechanical bacon cutter should be further safe guarded against accident.

The patients in residence today number 927 (421m. 506f.). Of these 139 are voluntary and 2 are temporary patients. During 1947 there were 270 direct admissions, 173 being admitted on a voluntary basis and 10 as temporary patients. The departures or discharges numbered 205 of whom 80 were regarded as recoveries. Twenty male and one female rank as service or ex-service patients.

The nursing staff consists of 63 men and 97 women, 42 of the latter being part time only. Nine men and 13 women are always on duty each night. Forty eight of the men and 28 of the women are certificated or registered as mental nurses.

At the time of this visit 43 patients (20m. 23f.) were being nursed in bed. These patients were being well looked after and carefully nursed. I have been informed that special precautions against the prevalence of flies have produced most satisfactory results.

At the present time no patient is suffering from dysentery but since the last visit there have been 23 cases mainly on the female side. Of these 11 are recorded (2m. 9f.) since the beginning of 1948. Flexner Z was the causal organism in each case. Five patients (1m. 4f.) are returned as suffering from tuberculosis; all enjoy the benefits of open air treatment on verandas and each is said to be in a quiescent phase of this disease at present.

The mortality rate for 1947 was 5.1 per cent (4.3m. 5.8f.). In that year 42 patients died (16m. 26f.). The cause of death was certified by post-mortem examination in 23 instances. The chief causes of death

were diseases of the circulatory system 16, pneumonia 7 and cerebral thrombosis 6. Two male patients died from tuberculosis. Three deaths formed the subject of Inquests. The circumstances of each case were fully reported to my Board at the time.

Since the last visit 12 serious but non-fatal casualties have occurred. Eight were due to accidental falls, 2 by reason of violence on the part of other patients and 2 resulted from electric convulsion therapy. The patients here have the benefit of all the most modern methods of treatment including prolonged narcosis, electric convulsion therapy, full insulin therapy and leucotomy.

Out-patient Clinics are held at the Radcliffe Infirmary by Dr. Armstrong and 2 of his medical staff. There are 6 sessions weekly. A fortnightly Clinic is also held at The Horton Hospital, Banbury and at this clinic certain patients are treated with electric convulsions.

I. COFFIN DUNCAN,
Commissioner of the Board of Control.

